

The Downfall of Licinius

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Finally, it was not becoming that the daughter of Diocletian and the widow of Galerius should stoop to a second marriage. Maximin took a bitter revenge, he reduced Valeria to penury, marked down all her friends for ruin, and finally drove her into exile with her mother, Prtsea, who nobly shared the sufferings of the daughter whom she could not shield, Lactantius tells us that the two imperial ladies wandered miserably through the Syrian wastes, while Maximin took delight in spurning the overtures of the aged Diocletian, who sent repeated messages begging that his daughter might be allowed to go and live with him at Salona. Maximin refused even when Diocletian sent one of his relatives to remind him of past benefits, and the two unfortunate ladies knew no alleviation of their troubles. When the tyrant fell, they probably thought that the implacable hatred with which Maximin had pursued them would be their best recommendation to the favour of Licinius. Again, however, they were disappointed, for Licinius, in his jealous anxiety to spare no one connected with the families of his predecessors in the purple, ordered the execution of Cawlidianus, a natural son of Galerius, who had been brought up by Valeria as her own child. In despair, therefore, the two ladies, who *luul* boldly *jjone* to Nicomedia, fled from the and **** wandered for fifteen months, disguised as plebeians, through various provinces," * until they had the misfortune to be recognised at Thessalonica,